## State of Idaho

## DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

700 West State Street, 3rd Floor P.O. Box 83720 Boise, Idaho 83720-0043 Phone (208)334-4250 FAX # (208)334-4398 WILLIAM W. DEAL Director

## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2010

CONTACT: Tricia Carney
208-334-4312
tricia.carney@doi.idaho.gov
cell 208-850-2342

## Beware of Scams Related to Health Insurance Reform

BOISE ID (April 20, 2010) – The Idaho Department of Insurance continues to receive information from industry and media sources across the nation that scam artists may be attempting to defraud consumers about the federal health insurance reforms.

Reports indicate that fake agents and sales people are posing as federal government employees and going door-to-door peddling phony health insurance policies. Elderly consumers are prime targets for these scams.

Department Director Bill Deal says, "Idahoans should be especially wary of door-to-door insurance sales, requests for immediate purchase of "limited enrollment" federal health policies and other high-pressure sales tactics."

The Department has established a new page on their Web site, <a href="www.doi.idaho.gov">www.doi.idaho.gov</a>, that provides information and links about the health reform bill including a timeline of events. Consumers can view a list of frequently asked questions and submit their own questions from this page.

The Department offers the following tips to help consumers protect themselves from scams:

- Be leery of people who show up at your door unsolicited. Representatives from Medicare will never visit your home or make a call to you unless you request it.
- Health insurance policies are issued by companies and not through legislation. An "ObamaCare" insurance policy is bogus.
- Legitimate insurance agents should not pressure you or rush you into signing anything. They should not object to someone else being present during a sales pitch.
- Never give out personal information to strangers.
- Always verify that an agent and company are licensed to do business in Idaho by calling the Department at 334-4250 in Boise or 800-721-3272 toll-free statewide, or by visiting the Web site, <a href="www.doi.idaho.gov">www.doi.idaho.gov</a>.